

Eng. Kezias Kazuba MWALE

Candidate for the ATU Secretary General elections 2026



ATU Director for Spectrum since 2012

MY COMMITMENT

“Advancing ATU Transformation - Deepening its Contribution to the Digital Transformation Agenda”

ANCHORS OF CANDIDATURE

Competency; Strong Credentials; Broad Skill Set; Hands-on Experience; Deep Situational Awareness; Innovativeness; Rich Institutional Memory; 14-years of Diligent, Loyalty, Impactful Service at ATU itself; People (Vast Network & Connections)

VISION STATEMENT

“Advancing ATU Transformation - Deepening its Contribution to the Digital Transformation Agenda”

The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) is a key continental institution: it is both the African Union's specialised institution in the field of Telecommunications/ICTs (now digital), and the International Telecommunication Union's regional telecommunications organization for Africa. It has a highly noble mission given that we are in the digital driven era – “*to accelerate the development of telecommunications/ICTs in Africa in order to achieve digital economies*”. The institution envisions an “*inclusive information society and strong digital economies for social, economic and environmentally sustainable development in Africa*”.

The institution has undergone remarkable transformation in the recent past transitioning from questionable relevance/visibility to delivering real value worth billions of US dollars and is now highly strategically relevant/visible. Despite this transformation, a lot still needs to be done. For example, the number of its Secretariat staff remains extremely low in comparison to its vast and ever-expanding mandate, and the institution is yet to embark on and sustain flagship projects directly with its Member States. Even more crucially, the current Africa's internet use at 43% of population is unfortunately much lower compared to the global average of 68%. I strongly believe, that the institution ought to continue to focus on its transformation. This belief is anchored on my 24-years of impacting the digital sector, 14-years of impactful service at ATU itself as its Director for Spectrum, and more importantly profound situational awareness of where we are and where we ought to be.

Therefore, under my leadership, the institution will focus on the next transformation phase while protecting the transformational gains registered thus far with the ultimate objective of deepening its contribution to the digital transformation agenda. The continent cannot continue to be the least connected yet with the highest youthful population globally. With a remarkable Membership of 52 Member States and 50 private sector entities, notably global digital leaders, the ATU has the potential to do more.

My vision is deeply rooted in identifying and meeting the expectations of Member States and key stakeholders - including the AU, ITU, Sub-Regional organizations, Associate Members, Partners, Experts, and Staff. At the heart of this vision is a commitment to driving Africa's digital transformation agenda with strategic leadership and innovation. A vision without the capacity to deliver is merely a dream. Backed by my unmatched credentials, extensive hands-on experience, diverse skill set, and the unwavering support of key players across and beyond Africa, I am confident in my ability to steer ATU towards a dynamic and prosperous future. The key to unlocking this transformative future lies in your support. I humbly and sincerely seek your trust in my candidature to lead ATU into its next era of growth and impact.

SUPPORT MY CANDIDATURE ON THE BASIS OF:

- ✓ *Most appropriate vision for the next chapter of the ATU*
- ✓ *Strong competencies and highly relevant credentials to deliver the vision*
- ✓ *Hands-on experience, innovation prowess and rich institutional memory*
- ✓ *Significant contributions, diligence and loyalty to ATU since 2012*
- ✓ *Deep situational awareness of the challenges and opportunities*
- ✓ *Extensive network of people driving the digital sector in Africa and beyond*

MY 10-POINT AGENDA: THE PRIORITIES

1. ENHANCE VALUE DELIVERY TO MEMBER STATES

Expand tangible benefits by implementing flagship projects that deliver measurable significant economic impact, and by leveraging the transformative power of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and optimal use of digital resources

2. ENHANCE LEVERAGE OF THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

Focus on high-value, high-impact programmes that require collective continental action i. e. programmes that are beyond the full control of any single Member State and/or Sub-Region

3. STRONGER SUPPORT FOR AU, RECs & ITU DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDAS

Enhance collaboration with the AU, ITU, RECs and their respective ICT regulatory associations to support their digital transformation initiatives, and even more significantly with RECs as ATU's gateways to Member States and vice-versa

4. ENHANCE AFRICA'S EQUAL PLAYING ROLE IN GLOBAL DIGITAL MATTERS

Enhance Africa's effective coordination and meaningful participation in matters of the ITU and other key forums, notably internet governance forums, to ensure our continent remains an equal player in global decision-making

5. DEEPEN UNIVERSAL AND MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY

Contribute considerably towards deepening internet rate usage to more than 50% of Africa's population by 2030, and more so improve meaningful connectivity rate. The current rate of 43% is unfortunately much lower compared to the global average of 68%. ATU would double its efforts in its contributions towards improving the rate

6. GREATER PROMOTION OF INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Special attention will be paid to promoting innovation, as well as, financing of digital infrastructure development by undertaking special engagement with potential funders such as the AfDB and TDB

7. SUPPORT ENHANCED INTRA-AFRICA TRADE

Enhance support to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by fostering enhanced collaboration in digital development and by harmonizing ICT policies across Africa

8. STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND PARTNERS

Foster win-win collaboration with the ATU Associate Members (private sector) and other partners to drive mutually beneficial projects such as digital inclusion initiatives

9. SPECIALIZED NEED-BASED HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Develop Africa's expert cadre through specialized need-based training programmes to empower the continent to lead complex ICT projects, and actively engage experts in strategic roles to drive impactful initiatives

10. ENHANCE DELIVERY EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Enhance delivery capacity of the ATU Secretariat, notably reinstatement of the Deputy SG position, and pervasive use of digital platforms/tools in engagement with Membership and stakeholders

ATU REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION SINCE 2012

ATU has undergone a remarkable transformation since 2012 as summarised below

| No. | Indicator | 2012 | 2024 |
|-----|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Thirteen (13) countries joined as Member States | 39 | 52 |
| 2 | Ratifications more than doubled | 18 | 40 |
| 3 | Associate Members more than doubled | 21 | 50 |
| 4 | Member States engagement doubled | 24 | 48 |
| 5 | Task/Working structures | ? | 20+ |
| 6 | Annual financial budget tripled | USD1,130,000 | USD3,411,950* |
| 7 | Financial stability (new members, arrears settlement) | Hand-to-mouth | Reserve Fund |
| 8 | Technical internal capacity (number of technical staff) | 1 | 7* |
| 9 | Office premises | Grade ? | Grade A |
| 10 | Ability to attract high-value grants & partnerships | ? | Yes |
| 11 | Invitations to high-level forums: high profile/visibility | ? | Overflowing |
| 12 | Tangible & measurable impact | ? | USD Billions |

*clearly, more needs to be done

SUMMARY OF MY IMPACTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS

Below is an outline of my impactful contributions to ATU transformation in all key areas at the level of head of a department. Clearly, as the overall head, I will achieve even greater success, benefitting Member States, the institution and our continent as a whole

PARTNERSHIPS

Forging partnerships e. g. with IARU Eutelsat, as well as, leading the development of a grant proposal which secured ATU USD380,000



LEGAL

Lead for Constitutional review of 2014, and Administrative Regulations review of 2018, as well as, Secretary of Plenary for ATU PPs 2014, 2018 & 2022



MEMBERSHIP & ADMIN

Recruitment of both Member States and Associate Members, Development of consultancy evaluation criteria, design of ATU publications, ...



INNOVATION

Various firsts including the 1st edition of the African Spectrum Allocation Plan, and the recovery of high-value satellite resources



FINANCE

Change of mode of membership financial contributions from assessments to Unit selection mechanism which has boosted remittances



INFO SYSTEMS

Development of the Endevaz platform, internal ATU Dashboard, and securing ATU's dotAfrica domain

ATU

PROFILE

Upon invitation and since joining the ATU in 2012, Eng. Kezias Kazuba MWALE is renowned for his significant contributions towards its remarkable transformation in all spheres of the institution, namely; technical, legal, financial, administration, IT systems, and partnerships. ATU's transformation since 2012 is evidenced, among others, by: (1) Thirteen countries joining as Member States raising the number from 39 to 52; (2) doubling of ratifications of its Constitution/Convention; (3) Tripling of annual financial budget and establishment of the reserve fund signifying stable financial situation a stark contrast to hand-month in 2012; (4) Several-fold enhancement in engagement with Member States and Stakeholders, and (5) even more importantly, delivering real value worth billions of US dollars to the continent and its Membership.

Due to his personality and close interaction with key people, he has amassed several high-profile connections in Africa and worldwide. These acquaintances are key and strategic in fostering goodwill, partnerships, and linkages and therefore getting things done in an effective and timely manner.

He has a rich CV: (1) notably three highly relevant degrees to the digital sector, namely; Bachelor in Telecommunications, Master in Broadband/Mobile Communications, and an MBA; (2) many *firsts* at both ZICTA and ATU giving credence to his innovativeness prowess and deep understanding of issues; (3) secretary of the last three conferences of ATU supreme organ as evidence of his high-calibre; (4) conception and management of high-value programmes; (5) demonstrated constitutional and legal reform capability; (6) and many other key skills including consensus building (diplomacy), partnerships conception/management, deep institutional memory, profound knowledge of the rules of procedures, first-hand-experience of ATU affairs since 2012, IT systems development, and more.

He is currently the Director for Radiocommunications (Spectrum) at ATU with an impactful service since 2012. Prior to that, he was Manager – Spectrum Management at ZICTA. He joined ZICTA in 2003. As director for radiocommunications, he was at the centre of the successful recovery of lost satellite resources worth billions of US dollars to Africa, among other high-value high-impact digital programmes.

With over two decades of experience, including 14 years at the director level at ATU itself, Eng. Mwale brings unmatched hands-on expertise and a diverse skill set in conceptualizing and delivering high-impact digital programmes, which is vital for advancing universal connectivity in Africa and driving digital transformation in line with the AU 2063 vision for a more prosperous future.



3 DEGREES* DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO DIGITAL SECTOR

- (1) 2017: Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA)
- (2) 2008: Master's Degree in Broadband & Mobile Communications (*distinction class*)
- (3) 2002: Engineering Degree in Telecommunications

**plus numerous professional and career short courses*

SOME OF MY NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AT ATU



INNOVATIVENESS in the key sector of the Spectrum, including the 1st edition of the African Spectrum Allocation Plan (AfriSAP), and guidelines on implementation of emerging techs such as 5G and satellite broadband



PROTECTION of the Common Heritage (CH) via the conception, drafting and eventual adoption of the African common proposals to its AP40, which were key in blocking ITSO's abolishment



OPTIMIZATION of the FM Sound Broadcasting Plan (the GE84 Plan) which yielded 18, 326 new FM Frequency channels across Africa to address channel crunch and support the continued growth of



CONCEPTION of the ATU Digital Summit whose 2025 inaugural edition will launch a number of ground-breaking initiatives such as the ATU Space Shield, ATU Academy, and ATU Youth



RECOVERY of satellite resources worth billions of US dollars to the continent and millions to each of the 31 African beneficiary countries, and also Resolution 170. SADC is beneficiary. ECOWAS too is undertaking steps to benefit.



SECURING the highest amount of spectrum identification for mobile broadband among all ITU regions, which has directly benefited countries around Africa in terms of revenue to treasuries and



LEAD role in the development of a grant proposal to ICANN, which secured ATU a grant of almost half-a-million US dollars for Promoting the Deployment of IPv6 in African Countries



ENHANCEMENT of ATU/Africa's participation at WRCs - making Africa an equal player - which has led to remarkable successes at these conferences including recovery of high-value satellite



TRANSFORMATION of ATU's spectrum sector resulting in doubling of Member States and Associate Member engagement



SECRETARY of the supreme organ of the ATU i. e. the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (CPL) of 2014, 2018 and 2022 as its secretary of plenary and lead report drafter



REVIEW of the ATU Constitution and Convention, and also staff rules and regulations at CPL-2014 and CPL-2018, respectively



CONTRIBUTION towards other ATU areas such as modernizing ATU communication channels notably personal acquisition and implementation of the dotAfrica domain

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE CONTINENTAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

Our continent has witnessed remarkable digital transformation in recent times in terms of both connectivity and meaningful usage. In the case of internet usage for example, Africa has registered phenomenal growth from below 10% to about 43% over the decade, and even more significantly, immerse leverage of the connectivity from pervasive personal communications to e-government services. I have had the honour to **contribute** to this transformation since I began to serve the ATU in 2012. Some of the notable ways include:

1. Member of AU Task Force on Digital Transformation Strategy
2. Member of the RASCOM Stakeholders Working Group
3. Development of the ATU framework on 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR)
4. Implementation of the dotAfrica domain (<https://atuuat.africa>) as part of promotion of the dotAfrica domain
5. Conception of the ATU Digital Summit (ATU-DS) as the ATU Annual flagship event
6. Founder of the Endevaz (<https://endevez.com>) a platform that optimises the visibility, implementation impact of endeavours. The ATU is utilising and benefiting from the platform

NOTABLE LEADERSHIPS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BEYOND OFFICIAL WORK



Chair of the Association of Zambians Living in Kenya (AZAKE) from 2020 to 2022: Major achievements during my tenure were the review of the AZAKE Constitution which introduced the position of Social Secretary, Regional Representatives, and the establishment of the Insaka (akin to Town Hall forum)



Chair Executive Committee of the 2018 Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia (ZIMAZA) Games in Nairobi: under my leadership, the event's budget was fully funded by sponsorships hence making it the first ZIMAZA to be cost-free on the part of the participating associations

24-YEARS OF IMPACTING DIGITAL SECTOR

- Oct 2012 – present: Director for Radiocommunications (Spectrum at ATU*)
- Oct 2010 – Sep 2012: Manager Spectrum Management at ZICTA
- Aug 2005 – Sep 2010: Senior Spectrum Engineer at ZICTA
- Apr 2003 – Jul 2005: Spectrum Engineer at Zambia ICT Authority (ZICTA)

***14 YEARS OF DILIGENT, IMPACTFUL SERVICE TO ATU & AFRICA**



INVITATION

Digital technology, being the driver for the 4th industrial revolution we are in, is evidently crucial. ATU remains a key continental body in driving the digital transformation agendas, and must, therefore, be entrusted to the most competent hands. The 2026 ATU SG election is a unique opportunity Member States could not afford to miss to do just that.

With my impactful service at ATU for the last 14-years at the director level and reporting directly to the SG, I am uniquely competent: highly relevant credentials (3 directly relevant degrees); hands-on experience; innovativeness; rich institutional memory; diligence and loyalty; consensus building (diplomacy); vast network of people who drive the sector across Africa and beyond; deep situational awareness of the key issues (the SWOT issues); broad-based skill set (paralegal, partnerships, financial, software development, etc); and more.

The Member State of Zambia and I seek your support on the basis of my demonstrated competency to deliver the next ATU transformation as outlined in my 10-point Agenda for the benefit of Member States, RECs, Africa and ATU itself.

Support Zambia, Support Me, Support Progress!

Eng. Kezias Kazuba MWALE

TOGETHER, LET US PROGRESS AFRICA. I WELCOME YOUR IDEAS



+254 736 586 666



k.mwale@atuuat.africa



@keziaskazuba



linkedin.com/in/eng-kezias-kazuba-mwale